



July-August 2004

The Bay Leaf

California Native Plant Society • East Bay Chapter • Alameda & Contra Costa Counties

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Native Here Nursery p. 4

Fridays, July 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, Native Here Nursery open 9-noon

Saturdays, July 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, nursery open 10-1

Tuesdays, July 6, 13, 20, 27, Seed forays leave nursery at 9 am.

Plant Sale Activities p. 3

Tuesdays, July 6, 13, 20, 27, August 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

Saturdays, July 24, August 28, 9 am to 2 pm, Merritt College, Oakland

Plant Sale October 2 & 3

Field Trips p. 2

Saturday, July 10, 9 am, **Carson Pass & Winnemucca Lake Trail (Alpine County)**

Leader: Ted Kipping. Co-sponsored by the Yerba Buena and East Bay Chapters of CNPS.

Sunday, July 18, 2:00 pm, **Pioneer Tree Trail, Samuel Taylor State Park** (on Sir Francis Drake Boulevard in Marin County, near Olema)

Chapter Board meeting

Saturday, August 7, 10 am, Merritt College, Oakland

Annual Potluck Picnic for the East Bay Chapter of CNPS p. 6

Saturday, September 18, 2004, 3:00 pm

2004 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

The East Bay Chapter's Grants Committee has decided on the recipients of the 2004 scholarships. These scholarships are funded by the Chapter Annual Plant Sale, which owes its success to the hard work of volunteers. The scholarships are given annually to graduate and undergraduate students working in botany, horticulture, conservation, and related fields and whose studies include some aspect of the native flora of California.

This year, scholarships of \$1,200 each have been awarded to:

Shannah Anderson. Ms. Anderson is in the graduate program at UC Berkeley's Landscape Architecture & Environmental Planning Department. She has worked for the Aquatic Outreach Institute and in creek restoration. She co-authored *The Gardener's Guide to Native Plants of the East Bay*.

Laura Garrison. Ms. Garrison is working on her master's degree at San Francisco State University in the Ecology and Systematic Biology Program. She has worked on the molecular phylogeny of genus *Phacelia*.

She hopes to move on to a Ph.D. in restoration biology.

Allison Green. Ms. Green is in the master's program in the Department of Environmental Studies at San José State University. She is studying rare plants found on serpentine soils and their relationship to exotic species. She has been working on *Streptanthus albidus* var. *peramoenus*, which is found in serpentine areas in Alameda, Contra Costa, and Santa Clara Counties.

Andrew Murdock. Mr. Murdock is in the doctoral program in the Department of Integrative Biology at UC Berkeley. His research focus is botany, particularly the evolution of ferns and fern allies. He is working with California ferns in the genera *Polypodium* and *Aspidotis*.

Yuri Springer. Mr. Springer is a Ph.D. candidate at the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at UC Santa Cruz. He has been working on the interaction between the 13 species of California wild flax (*Hesperolinon*) and a fungal rust.

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2004 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS continued from page 1

The Myrtle Wolf Scholarship, named to honor longtime East Bay Chapter activist Myrtle Wolf, is given to an outstanding candidate. The recipient of the Myrtle Wolf Scholarship receives an additional \$750 along with the standard award of \$1,200. The 2004 recipient of the Myrtle Wolf Scholarship is Allison Green.

The 2004 scholarship candidates were both numerous (18!) and extremely strong and well qualified. The Committee would like to thank all the applicants as well as the instructors whose letters of reference supported the applications.

Money to Support Projects is Available

The East Bay Chapter of CNPS supports scholarly, scientific, and conservation projects involving native plants. Grants in the recent past have been between \$500 to \$2,000. Preference is given to projects in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties, although other applications will be considered. Send your application, preferably by e-mail (please put "EBCNPS Project Support" in the subject line) by October 1, 2004 to:

East Bay Chapter CNPS Grants Committee
c/o Sandy McCoy
1311 Bay View Place
Berkeley, CA 94708
sandymccoy@mindspring.com
Fax: 510-848-1789

Time-sensitive projects will be considered on an ad hoc basis.

Proposals should be concise but should contain basic technical information (perhaps five pages, but not 25 pages). Letters of support and auxiliary materials of limited length may also be helpful. Also, please provide a budget for the whole project. Applicants may find it useful to indicate to the Committee a particular portion of the project for which they seek funding. Please be aware that there are no other guidelines in addition to this announcement.

Sandy McCoy

FIELD TRIPS

Saturday, July 10, 9 am, **Carson Pass & Winnemucca Lake Trail (Alpine County)**

Leader: Ted Kipping. Co-sponsored by the Yerba Buena and East Bay Chapters of CNPS.

Those who had the opportunity to attend our May program, hear Ted's introductory talk, and see his glorious slides of one of California's most spectacular wildflower areas know what an exceptional experience is in store. The main event on Saturday will be a leisurely hike from the Carson Pass summit parking lot (Highway 88) to Winnemucca Lake. The gentle trail will pass through open forest, subalpine, alpine, and aquatic environs, an interesting mosaic that allows a rich variety of species to exist in close proximity. The sub-irrigated meadows midway between Frog and Winnemucca Lakes comprise some of the most colorful and photogenic natural perennial assemblages you will ever experience. After stopping for lunch by Winnemucca Lake, it's possible that our timing will coincide with the blooming of the Sierra primrose (*Primula suffrutescens*), a few hundred yards farther up to trail. We strongly recommend that you make this a weekend trip, and in this spirit we offer some suggestions regarding a variety of accommodations. The closest campground west of the pass is at Woods Lake, and there are also

nearby campgrounds at Caples Lake, Silver Lake, and Kirkwood. These are all first-come, first-served. East of the pass there are individual and group camps at Hope Valley which take advance reservations. Caples Lake offers lodge and cabin accommodations, and a variety of indoor lodging is also available at Kirkwood and Hope Valley. A couple of websites that will probably prove helpful are www.geocities.com/leesvec/, which gives additional information about National Forest campgrounds, as well as concessionaire campgrounds, in the area. The Alpine County Chamber of Commerce website www.alpinecounty.com/ also provides lots of information on lodging, campgrounds, and other matters of interest. The hiking group will meet at the visitor center by the Carson Pass parking lot at 9 am. After some introductory information, we will be on the trail by 9:30. Bring lunch, plenty of water, hat, protective clothing, and sunscreen. Remember that you will be at much higher elevations than those to which you are accustomed. For additional information, contact Field Trip Chair Karl Young (415-750-9463 or kyoung@itsa.ucsf.edu).

Sunday, July 18, 2:00 pm, **Pioneer Tree Trail, Samuel Taylor State Park** (on Sir Francis Drake Boulevard in Marin County, near Olema)

FIELD TRIPS

Directions: from San Francisco, cross the Golden Gate Bridge and continue on 101 North to the San Anselmo/Richmond Bridge exit (well past Sausalito). Take that exit staying to the left and turn onto Sir Francis Drake Boulevard. From the East Bay, get on the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge, and take the second exit after reaching Marin County, onto Sir Francis Drake Blvd. Stay on Sir Francis Drake Boulevard nearly across the county (the only even slightly confusing intersection is with Red Hill Road – Sir Francis Drake bends to the left immediately after the intersection). You enter Samuel Taylor State Park soon after passing through the town of Laganitas (and soon after you enter redwood groves). Look for the park headquarters and main picnic area on the left, after a mile or two. Enter the headquarters area (there is a parking fee that must be paid whether

or not the booth is staffed). Park in a space in the Picnic Area and walk across the bridge, taking a left past the group picnic area to the group picnic area parking lot, where we will meet.

The Pioneer Tree Trail is about two miles, with several hundred feet of elevation change. There are old growth redwoods (as well as logged groves). We will see what mid-summer flowers there are.

Please contact David Margolies (510-654-0283, divaricatum@aol.com) if you need further information.

Janet Gawthrop

PLANT SALE ACTIVITIES

Propagating and Potting Sessions:



Tuesdays
July 6, 13, 20, 27
August 3, 10, 17, 24, 31
-and-

Saturdays
July 24
August 28

9 am to 2 pm
Merritt College, Oakland
Landscape Horticulture
Parking fee: 50 cents

The summer work sessions are potting free as we prepare plants for the annual October sale. Notice the extra days (Saturdays) necessary to get the job done. Come up and help out for couple of hours – it will make a difference.

If you would like directions to the campus or for more information: 925-376-4095.

Plant Sale October 2 & 3

Shirley McPheeters

We cannot command Nature except by obeying her.
Francis Bacon

CONSERVATION

Applications received by July 15 are being considered for the half-time East Bay Conservation Analyst position. Interviews will begin mid July and we hope to have someone working soon after that.

Please advise anyone interested in the position to check our chapter web site, www.ebcnps.org, for the job description and statement of desired qualifications.

If you haven't responded yet to the appeal for funds to help pay for this position, please do so soon.

Volunteers will be needed even more once the Analyst is working. As more and more projects are identified, local representation for CNPS will be as important as ever, and information will be available for volunteers to present. Please contact me if interested in joining the conservation volunteers.

Charli Danielsen, Conservation Coordinator
charlid@pacbell.net

How long can men thrive between walls of brick, walking on asphalt pavements, breathing the fumes of coal and of oil, growing, working, dying, with hardly a thought of wind, and sky, and fields of grain, seeing only machine-made beauty, the mineral-like quality of life? Charles A. Lindbergh, *Reader's Digest*, November 1939

It is imperative to maintain portions of the wilderness untouched so that a tree will rot where it falls, a waterfall will pour its curve without generating electricity, a trumpeter swan may float on uncontaminated water - and moderns may at least see what their ancestors knew in their nerves and blood.
Bernard De Voto, *Fortune*, June 1947

GARDENING WITH NATIVES

Summertime 2004 the living is easy on my apartment balcony, and there isn't a painting crew anywhere in the building. Last year at the same time, the management sent painters to clean and paint the apartment exterior, which sent me scrambling to drag all my plants indoors and under the dining table, for lack of space anywhere else. Some smashed leaves, dehydrated cuttings, and tipped plants resulted, but I am amazed at how rapidly the survivors recovered, once I returned them to the balcony.

My *Opuntia littoralis* (coastal prickly pear) remained unchanged indoors, and once outside, it grew slowly and undisturbed even as weeds sprouted in the winter rains amid the paint chips, which now have faded to a spider web of brown stems around the cactus. As I moved the plants outdoors last July, I dislodged one of the nopals from the cactus, which survived an emergency transfer to a sandy pot and is growing to this day.

All other succulents survived their return to the balcony wall. *Sedum divergens* and *Sedum spathulifolium* both have outgrown their original pots several times, only to be divided, repotted and passed on at plant sales and CNPS tables. *Dudleya farinosa* has grown more slowly, but rewarded me with two long candelabras with pale flowers. Thanks to either the pull of sunlight or overcrowding beneath the dining table last year, the *Dudleya* now leans over the side of the pot, while its flower stalks lean horizontally in the opposite direction. It flowered anyway.

NATIVE HERE

Fridays, July 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, Native Here Nursery open 9-noon
Saturdays, July 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, nursery open 10-1
Tuesdays, July 6, 13, 20, 27, Seed forays leave nursery at 9 am.

As I write this, it is a very busy time in the nursery, not selling plants so much as working with the huge numbers of seedlings that resulted from our 2003 seed collection efforts. More volunteers are welcome to help us put those seedlings into pots, and to make places to store and protect them until fall planting season arrives. New seed collecting volunteers are welcomed on Tuesday mornings. Most Tuesdays we just go out for the morning, but occasionally we go further afield and take lunch, returning around 3 pm. If you'd like to know which, send me an e-mail charlid@pacbell.net a few days before.

There is a wide array of native grasses available for purchase now. With some watering, it is safe to plant them throughout the summer months.

Lewisia cotyledon may not be an official succulent, but it has fleshy, basal leaves like succulents, and a comparable toughness in the face of banishment to the dining room and forgetful watering. Back on a sunny balcony this year, it has sent up flower stalks with peppermint-striped petals and yellow anthers--all that on less than a cup of water a day, and used rinse water at that.

Then there is the Anna's hummingbird section; if I'm quiet, they permit this invading giant to water the *Salvia leucophylla* (purple sage) and *Salvia clevelandii* (fragrant sage) next to the *Lewisia*. Both lost limbs in the evacuation to the dining table, but both flowered riotously this year. *Salvia leucophylla* is now past its best, but *Salvia clevelandii* continues to bloom profusely on little more water than I provide to the *Lewisia*.

The last, but perhaps most formidable survivor, is another mint family species, *Satureja douglasii*. Not only did it survive the dining table, its cuttings survived smashing, falling out of pots, all to take root and be given away this spring. The original plant sits inside my balcony at a more shaded location, with a few tubular white flowers.

I am still trying to figure out how California natives got a reputation for weakness or difficulty in horticulture.

Janet Gawthrop

Volunteers and customers are welcome to stop in whenever the nursery is open: Fridays, 9 to noon, and Saturdays 10 am to 1 pm. No need to phone ahead, just show up at 101 Golf Course Drive in Tilden Park. Charli, Margot or Janice will put you to work or sell you some plants.

Books are also available at the nursery: Barbara Ertter's *Annotated Checklist of the East Bay Flora* is a great help on those spring walks. *Vegetation Management Almanac for the East Bay Hills* helps you to plan your assault on the weeds that are starting to emerge and to plan your year-round maintenance for fire safety. Dianne Lake's *Rare, Unusual and Significant Plants of Alameda and Contra Costa Counties* is available, as is Aquatic Outreach Institute's *Gardener's Guide*.

Charli Danielsen

ACTIVITIES OF OTHERS

Butterfly Gardening for Beginners

Butterfly gardening is a delightful pursuit, with many rewards, but where to begin? We will start with an amazing video of the life cycle because understanding the biology is the key to a successful habitat. We will then cover the resources that gardeners, parents and teachers will find useful. We will also talk about plants (choice, exposure, maintenance) and caterpillar rearing. Live specimens will be available for viewing. The instructor has been teaching and gardening for more than 20 years. Class meets at 10:30 am on June 19 in Berkeley. \$5-10 donation. Please email Sal Levinson, sunsalsal@hotmail.com for more information. Sponsored by the North American Butterfly Association.

Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour

The Bringing Back the Natives Garden tour will showcase attractive gardens that require a minimum of water, don't need pesticides or fertilizers, and, because they provide habitat for wildlife, are alive with the songs of birds and the fluttering wings of butterflies. The gardens featured in this tour demonstrate that, from postage stamp sized yards to large lots, beautiful California native plant gardens are possible for anyone.

Purposes are to:

- Provide Alameda and Contra Costa County residents with the opportunity to see first-hand a garden containing 30% or more native plants and that demonstrates the use of natural gardening techniques.
- Illustrate that healthy, attractive gardens can flourish without the use of chemicals.
- Motivate residents to try gardening with native plants, and using natural gardening techniques in their own gardens by providing the opportunity to visit a variety of interesting and visually appealing pesticide-free gardens.
- Inspire gardeners to provide habitat for wildlife home gardens.

To receive a Host Application, please e-mail Kathy Kramer at Kathy@KathyKramerConsulting.net or call 510-236-9558 between 9 am and 9 pm.



Giant Sequoia (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*), Sequoia National Park. Photo by Joe Willingham

**ANNUAL POTLUCK PICNIC
for the EAST BAY CHAPTER of CNPS**

**Saturday, September 18, 2004,
beginning at 3:00 p.m.**

**At the Regional Parks Botanic Garden
(Intersection of South Park Drive and Wildcat Canyon Road
in Tilden Park, Berkeley)**

All are welcome—bring your friends and family and a dish to share

Enjoy food and drink, a native plant raffle, a garden tour, live music, and more...

Details in the September *Bay Leaf*
For more information, call 510-496-6016

Board of Directors

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Education:

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Plant Communities:

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suebain@SSCL.Berkeley.EDU

Plant Sale:

Shirley McPheeters, 104 Ivy Dr., Orinda 94563, 925-376-4095
Phoebe Watts, 1419 Grant St., Berkeley 94703, 525-6614,
phwatts@cs.com

Plant Sale Publicity:

Elaine Jackson, 3311 Estudillo St., Martinez 94553, 925-372-0687,
elainejx@mindspring.com

Posters:

Vacant

Programs:

Sue Rosenthal, P.O. Box 20489, Oakland 94620, 496-6016,
rosacalifornia@earthlink.net

Rare Plants:

John Game, 1155 Spruce St., Berkeley 94707, 527-7855,
jcgame@lbl.gov

Regional Parks Botanic Garden Liaison:

Sue Rosenthal, P.O. Box 20489, Oakland 94620, 496-6016,
rosacalifornia@earthlink.net

Unusual Plants:

Dianne Lake, 1050 Bayview Farm Rd. #121, Pinole 94564, 741-8066,
diannelake@yahoo.com

Recorded Chapter Information: 464-4977

CNPS Home Page: www.cnps.org

East Bay Chapter CNPS Home Page:
www.ebcnps.org

Bay Leaf & Board meeting minutes online

Membership Application

Name _____

Address _____

Zip _____ Telephone _____

I wish to affiliate with:

____ East Bay Chapter (Alameda and Contra Costa Counties)

____ Other _____

E-mail _____
(optional)

Membership category:

____ Student, Retired, Limited income, \$20

____ Individual, Library, \$35

____ Household, Family, or Group, \$45

____ Supporting, \$75

____ Plant lover, \$100

____ Patron, \$250

____ Benefactor, \$500

____ Mariposa Lily, \$1000

Mail application and check to: California Native Plant Society, 2707 K Street, Suite 1, Sacramento CA 95816



This summer view of Mount Shasta from Packers Peak in the Trinity Alps shows a yellow buckwheat (*Eriogonum* sp.) in the foreground. The mountains of northwest California and southwest Oregon have some of the highest plant diversity in the nation, and include many endemic species. Packers Peak is a steep hike but is rewarding for views of the Trinity crest to the south as well as Mount Shasta. A fortunate hiker may find the rare *Penstemon tracyi* in rocks and scree on the way up. Photo and caption by John Game

California Native Plant Society
East Bay Chapter
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